



TITLE OF THE INVENTION

OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE, METHOD OF ASSEMBLING THE SAME,  
AND OPTICAL DISK DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5           This application is based upon and claims the  
benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent  
Application No. 2003-044522, filed February 21, 2003,  
the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by  
reference.

10                           BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an optical pickup  
and an optical disk device for recording information on  
an optical disk used as an information recording medium  
15 or reproducing the information from the optical disk.

2. Description of the Related Art

In optical disks for use as an information  
recording medium, a read-only optical disk typified by  
a CD (compact disc for music) and DVD-ROM, a write-once  
20 optical disk typified by a CD-R and DVD-R, a rewritable  
optical disk typified by an external memory of a  
computer and a recording/reproducing video disk, and  
the like have been already practically used.

In recent years, in order to correspond to the  
25 rapid increase in recording capacity required in  
information-related instruments and broadcast-related  
instruments, an increase in the recording capacity is

demanded in optical disks. Therefore, while research is going on to decrease the condensing spot diameter by shortening the laser beam wavelength (decrease in a condensing spot diameter) or to utilize of a super-resolution technology in order that the recording density is increased, a mastering technology such as electron beam exposure is studied in order to shorten a track pitch and a mark pit pitch.

For example, with reference to the decrease in the wavelength of the laser beam, a standard which employs a blue-violet laser beam having a wavelength of 405 nm is already defined.

Thus, higher accuracy is required for accuracy in position and assembly accuracy of the optical pickup for recording the information in the optical disk.

In Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-150599, it is described that a grating element incorporated in the optical pickup can be rotated in order to increase the assembly accuracy and accuracy in position the in assembling the optical pickup.

In the invention disclosed in Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-150599, a module 70 including the grating element can be rotated in an arbitrary direction by a projection 49 and a ring-shaped guide portion 50 in the optical pickup.

However, currently, due to the demand of the further miniaturization for the optical pickup, the

semiconductor laser element which outputs the light beam and a photodetector which receives a reflected light beam reflected from the optical disk under a predetermined condition and obtains an electrical  
5 signal for focus control and tracking control of an objective lens and for signal reproduction, have been already integrated with each other. Accordingly, the particularly high accuracy is required for optical axis alignment of the light beam which passes through  
10 optical elements and the objective lens guiding the light beam from the laser element to the objective lens.

In the laser element, on the other hand, a heat sink which radiates heat from the laser element is  
15 integrated with the laser element. In the case where the blue-violet laser beam having a wavelength of 405 nm is used, consideration of an energy distribution of the light beam is also required in order to improve utilization efficiency of the light beam. As a result,  
20 there is a problem that alignment time is increased in aligning an optical axis of the light beam which passes through the optical elements and the objective lens guiding the light beam from the laser element to the objective lens.

25 Generally the heat sink is provided in the laser element. However, a heat sink shape from form which heat is radiated securely, and a laser element holding

mechanism or the heat sink shape which has compatibility between fixing method and an alignment space for aligning the optical axis are not established yet.

Therefore, there is the problem that the energy of  
5 the light beam condensed on the recording surface of the optical disk through the objective lens is not uniform.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, there is  
10 provided an optical pickup device comprising: a light source which emits a light beam; an optical base which holds the light source; a dichroic prism which is fixed to the optical base, the dichroic prism reflecting the light beam emitted from the light source; a mirror  
15 which is fixed to the optical base, the mirror receiving the light beam reflected from the dichroic prism; a heat sink which is integrated with the light source, the heat sink releasing heat from the light source; and a heat sink holding member which can  
20 position the heat sink at a predetermined position in the optical base.

According to the present invention, there is further provided an optical disk device comprising: a light source which emits a light beam; an optical base  
25 which holds the light source; a dichroic prism which is fixed to the optical base, the dichroic prism reflecting the light beam emitted from the light

source; a mirror which is fixed to the optical base,  
the mirror receiving the light beam reflected from the  
dichroic prism; a heat sink which is integrated with  
the light source, the heat sink releasing heat from the  
5 light source; a heat sink holding member which can  
position the heat sink at a predetermined position in  
the optical base; and a photodetector which detects  
the reflected light beam in which the light beam is  
reflected at a recording medium and outputs an electric  
10 signal having a magnitude corresponding to intensity of  
the reflected light beam.

According to the present invention, there is  
still further provided a method of assembling a dual  
wavelength optical pickup device including an objective  
15 lens which condenses a light beam onto a recording  
medium or captures the light beam from a recording  
medium, a prism mirror which folds an optical path of  
the light beam passing through the objective lens at a  
predetermined angle, a first light source which emits a  
20 light beam having a first wavelength, a second light  
source which outputs a light beam having a second  
wavelength, a collimating lens which collimates the  
light beam from the first light source, a dichroic  
prism which transmits the light beam having the first  
25 wavelength collimated by the collimating lens toward  
the prism mirror and reflects the light beam from the  
second light source toward the prism mirror, and an

optical base which holds each of elements, the method comprising the steps of: fixing the prism mirror at a predetermined position in the optical base directly or through a holding member; fixing the collimating lens  
5 at the predetermined position in the optical base directly or through the holding member so that the light beam from the first light source can be incident on the prism mirror under a predetermined condition;

fixing the dichroic prism at the predetermined  
10 position in the optical base directly or through the holding member, while a virtual light source for assembly is used instead of the second light source and the light beam from the virtual light source is monitored as the light beam reflected from the prism  
15 mirror; positioning the second light source, which is fixed to a heat sink on the basis of a monitor signal obtained by an alignment photodetector or a detector of an autocollimator, at the predetermined position in the optical base; and bonding a heat sink holding member to  
20 the optical base, the heat sink holding member holding the heat sink so that a relative position between the heat sink and the optical base can be changed.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated  
25 in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description given above and the

detailed description of the preferred embodiment given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 is a schematic view illustrating an example of an optical disk device to which an embodiment of the invention is applied;

FIG. 2 is a schematic view illustrating an example of an optical pickup which is incorporated in the optical disk device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a signal processing system in the optical disk device shown in FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are a schematic view illustrating an example of a heat sink which is incorporated in the optical pickup shown in FIG. 2;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are a schematic view illustrating an example of a light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD which is incorporated in the optical pickup shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a configuration in which the light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B is mounted on the optical disk device shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a defect caused by the configuration, in which the light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD is mounted on the optical disk device, shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a main part in a mounting structure substituting for the configuration, in which the light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD is mounted on the optical disk device, shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a light-emitting/receiving unit holding structure which is combined with the mounting structure shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 10 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a state in which the mounting structure shown in FIG. 9 is attached to the mounting structure shown in FIG. 8;

FIG. 11 is a schematic view illustrating a state in which the mounting structure shown in FIG. 9 can be moved while the mounting structure shown in FIG. 9 is attached to the mounting structure shown in FIG. 8;

FIGS. 12A and 12B are a schematic view illustrating a feature in molding the mounting structure shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 13 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a process for assembling the optical pickup which uses the light-emitting/receiving unit holding structure and a mounting mechanism shown in FIGS. 8 to 10; and

FIG. 14 is a schematic view illustrating an example of a process for assembling the optical pickup



which uses the light-emitting/receiving unit holding structure and a mounting mechanism shown in FIGS. 8 to 10.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 Referring to the accompanying drawings, preferred embodiments of the invention will be described in detail below.

FIG. 1 is a schematic view illustrating an example of an optical disk device including an optical pickup  
10 of an embodiment of the invention.

An optical disk device 101 shown in FIG. 1 includes a housing 111 and a table unit 112 which is formed to be able to perform eject operation (movement in the direction of an arrow A) and loading operation  
15 (movement in the direction of an arrow A') relative to a housing 111.

A turntable 113 which rotates an optical disk D at a predetermined number of revolutions is provided in the substantial center of the table unit 112. Since  
20 FIG. 1 shows the case in which the table unit 113 is ejected while the optical disk D is not inserted, a part of an optical pickup 121 and an objective lens 122 incorporated in the optical pickup 121 can be seen with the optical pickup 121 and the objective lens 122  
25 exposed.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view illustrating an operating principle of the optical pickup 121 while

extracting elements of the optical pickup 121 in the optical disk device 101 shown in FIG. 1.

As shown in FIG. 2, the optical pickup 121 includes the objective lens 122 which condenses the light beam, i.e. a laser beam onto a recording surface of the optical disk D and takes in the laser beam reflected from the optical disk D (hereinafter referred to as reflected laser beam).

A first holographic element 123 is provided at a predetermined position on the side of the objective lens 122 which is opposite to the optical disk D. The first holographic element 123 gives predetermined optical characteristics of the laser beam directed toward the optical disk D through the objective lens 122 and the reflected laser beam from the optical disk D.

The objective lens 122 and the first holographic element 123 can be arbitrarily moved in a direction orthogonal to the recording surface of the optical disk D and in the direction orthogonal to a guide groove or a recording mark string provided in the recording surface with a three-axis actuator (not described in detail).

A prism mirror 124 is provided at a predetermined position in front of the first holographic element 123, i.e., on the side opposite from the objective lens 122. The prism mirror 124 reflects the laser beam guided in

the direction substantially parallel to the recording surface of the optical disk D toward the objective lens 122.

5 A first laser element 125 is provided at the position where the laser beam can be incident on the prism mirror 124. The first laser element 125 emits the laser beam having, e.g., the near infrared wavelength toward the direction substantially parallel to the recording surface of the optical disk D. For  
10 example, the first laser element 125 is employed to reproduce the information from the CD optical disk.

A light-receiving characteristics setting element 126 in which a diffraction grating and a non-polarizing hologram are integrally formed, a coupling lens 127, a  
15 dichroic prism 128, and a collimating lens 129 are provided between the first laser element 125 and the prism mirror 124 in the order from the side of the laser element 125. A first photodetector 130 detecting the reflected laser beam from the optical disk D is  
20 located at the position satisfying a predetermined condition for the position where the first laser element 125 is provided. The reflected laser beam to which the light-receiving characteristics setting element 126 gives predetermined diffraction is incident  
25 on the first photodetector 130.

A second laser element 131, which emits the laser beam having, e.g., a red wavelength, is provided at the

position where the laser beam can be incident on the prism mirror 124 by the reflection from the dichroic prism 128. For example, the second laser element 131 is employed to reproduce the information from the DVD standard optical disk and to write the information in the CD optical disk and the DVD standard optical disk.

An FM holographic element 132 is located at the predetermined position between the second laser element 131 and the dichroic prism 128. The FM holographic element 132 gives the characteristics suitable for information recording in the optical disk D to the laser beam radiated from the second laser element 131. The FM holographic element 132 also has a function of giving predetermined light-receiving characteristics to the reflected laser beam from the optical disk D.

A second photodetector 133 detecting the reflected laser beam from the optical disk D is provided at the position satisfying the predetermined condition for the position where the second laser element 131 is provided. The reflected laser beam to which the FM holographic element 132 gives the predetermined diffraction is incident to the second photodetector 133. The second laser element 131, the FM holographic element 132, and the second photodetector 133 are integrated in the form of a light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD 135 while a heat sink 134 is included in the light-emitting/receiving unit for DVD 135.

In the case where the information is reproduced from the CD optical disk using the optical pickup 121 shown in FIG. 2, the light-receiving characteristics setting element 126 gives predetermined wavefront characteristics to the a laser beam La having a wavelength of, e.g. 780 nm output from the first laser element 125, predetermined coupling efficiency is secured by the coupling lens 127, and the laser beam La is incident to the dichroic prism 128.

The laser beam La incident to the dichroic prism 128 is transmitted through the dichroic prism 128 and collimated with the collimating lens 129, and the traveling direction of the laser beam La is folded toward the objective lens 122 with the prism mirror 124.

The laser beam La directed toward the objective lens 122 with the prism mirror 124 passes through the first holographic element 123, and the laser beam La is condensed on the recording surface of the optical disk D.

The reflected laser beam La' which has been reflected on the recording surface of the optical disk D passes through the first holographic element 123 and returns to the prism mirror 124, and the traveling direction of the laser beam La' is folded in substantially parallel to the recording surface of the optical disk D again.

The reflected laser beam La' folded with the prism mirror 124 is incident on the collimate lens 129 and guided to the dichroic prism 128.

5 Then, the reflected laser beam La' returned to the dichroic prism 128 is transmitted through the dichroic prism 128 and directed toward the first photodetector 130 with the light-receiving characteristics setting element 126.

10 Accordingly, the reflected laser beam La' whose intensity is changed and returned according to the information recorded on the optical disk D is incident on the first photodetector 130.

15 The reflected laser beam La' is photoelectrically converted with the first photodetector 130, and the photoelectrically converted output is processed with a signal processing unit (described later using FIG. 3) and outputted to an external device or a temporary storage device in the form of the signal corresponding to the information recorded in the optical disk D.

20 In the case where the information is recorded in the DVD standard optical disk, the FM holographic element 132 gives the predetermined wavefront characteristics to a laser beam Lb having a wavelength of, e.g., 660 nm outputted from the second laser element 25 131, and the laser beam Lb is incident on the dichroic prism 128.

The laser beam Lb incident on the dichroic prism

128 is reflected from the dichroic prism 128 and guided to the collimating lens 129.

5       The laser beam Lb guided to the collimating lens 129 is collimated with the collimating lens 120, and the traveling direction of the laser beam Lb is folded toward the objective lens 122 with the prism mirror 124.

10       The laser beam Lb directed toward the objective lens 122 with the prism mirror 124 passes through the first holographic element 123, and the laser beam Lb is focused on the recording surface of the optical disk D.

15       The light intensity of the laser beam Lb condensed on the recording surface of the optical disk D has been modulated according to the information to be recorded with the signal processing unit, which will be shown in FIG. 3, so that a recording mark, i.e. a pit is formed in the recording film when energy per time is sufficient to generate phase transition of the recording film in the optical disk D.

20       The reflected laser beam Lb' which has been reflected on the recording surface of the optical disk D passes through the first holographic element 123 and returns to the prism mirror 124, and the traveling direction of the laser beam Lb' is folded in substantially parallel to the recording surface of the optical disk D again. The laser beam Lb' returns to the dichroic prism 128 through the collimating lens 129.

25

Then, the reflected laser beam  $Lb'$  returned to the dichroic prism 128 is reflected from the dichroic prism 128 and directed toward the second photodetector 133 with the FM holographic element 132.

5           A part of the reflected laser beam  $Lb'$  incident to the second photodetector 133 is employed to generate a focus error signal and a tracking error signal in the signal processing system shown in FIG. 3. Namely, while the objective lens 122 is focus-locked at the  
10           position where the objective lens 122 is on-focused on the recording surface of the optical disk D which is not described in detail, tracking is controlled so that the center of the laser beam corresponds to the center of the track or the pit string of the information pits  
15           which is previously formed in the recording surface of the optical disk D.

          In the case where the information is reproduced from the DVD standard optical disk, in the same way as the information recording, the laser beam  $Lb$  condensed  
20           on the recording surface of the optical disk D is reflected from the optical disk D while the intensity of the reflected laser beam  $Lb$  is changed according to the recording mark (pit string) recorded on the recording surface.

25           The reflected laser beam  $Lb'$  reflected from the optical disk D passes through the first holographic element 123 and returns to the prism mirror 124, and



the traveling direction of the laser beam Lb' is folded in substantially parallel to the recording surface of the optical disk D again. The laser beam Lb' returns to the dichroic prism 128 through the collimating  
5 lens 129.

Then, the reflected laser beam Lb' returned to the dichroic prism 128 is reflected from the dichroic prism 128 and directed toward the second photodetector 133 with the FM holographic element 132.

10 In the signal processing system shown in FIG. 3, a part of the reflected laser beam Lb' incident to the second photodetector 133 is output to the external device or the temporary storage device in the form of the signal corresponding to the reproducing signal  
15 obtained by adding the output of the second photodetector 133.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the signal processing system in the optical disk device shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. In FIG. 3, the  
20 reproduction of the signal from the CD optical disk (laser beam passing through the dichroic prism) will be omitted, and the output signal of the second photodetector, i.e. the reproducing signal from the DVD standard optical disk, focus control, and tracking  
25 control will be mainly described.

The second photodetector 133 includes a first area photodiode 133A, a second area photodiode 133B, a third

area photodiode 133C, and a fourth area photodiode  
133D. Outputs A, B, C, and D of the photodiodes 133A  
to 133D are amplified to a predetermined level by a  
first amplifier 221a, a second amplifier 221b, a third  
5 amplifier 221c, and a fourth amplifier 221d respec-  
tively.

In the outputs A to D of the amplifiers 221a to  
221d, the outputs A and B are added by a first adder  
222a and the outputs C and D are added by a second  
10 adder 222b.

The outputs of the adders 222a and 222b are added  
by an adder 223, while a sign of the outputs C and D is  
reversed to the outputs A and B.

The result of the addition of the adder 223 is  
15 supplied to a focus control circuit 231 in the form of  
the focus error signal utilized in order that the  
position of the objective lens 122 corresponds to a  
focal distance where the laser beam is focused on the  
track (not shown) previously formed on the recording  
surface of the optical disk D or the pit string (not  
20 shown) which is of the recording information through  
the objective lens 122.

An adder 224 generates  $(A+C)$ , and an adder 225  
generates  $(B+D)$ . The outputs  $(A+C)$  and  $(B+D)$  of the  
25 adders 224 and 225 are input to a phase-difference  
detector 232. The phase-difference detector 232 is  
useful for obtaining the accurate tracking error signal

when the objective lens 122 is lens-shifted.

The sum of  $(A+B)$  and  $(C+D)$  is obtained by an adder 226 and supplied to a tracking control circuit 233 in the form of the tracking error signal.

5            $(A+C)$  and  $(B+D)$  are further added by an adder 227, converted into an  $(A+B+C+D)$  signal, i.e. the reproducing signal, and input to a buffer memory 234.

10           The intensity of optical feedback of the laser beam emitted from the second laser element 131 is inputted to an APC circuit 239. This results in stabilization of the intensity of the recording laser beam emitted from the laser element 131 on the basis of the recording data stored in a recording data memory 236.

15           The second laser element 131 is integrated with a heat sink 134, for example, as shown FIGS. 4A and 4B. As shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, the second laser element is fixed to the predetermined position of an optical base 151 by positioning the unitized light-emitting/receiving unit 135 at a boss 152 of the optical base 151 described later by FIG. 6 and a positioning hole 134a in the heat sink 134.

25           However, it is known that the accuracy of position of the positioning hole 134a in the heat sink 134, positioning accuracy between the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 and the heat sink 134, accuracy in shape of each element, or the like might cause the

unstable light-emitting position of the second laser element 131 located in the index hole 134a and light-emitting/receiving unit 135 or the unstable central position of the laser beam Lb emitted from the laser element 131. Further, in the laser beam emitted from the second laser element 131, it is well known that a spread angle of the laser element in the direction horizontal to the junction surface of the laser element chip is different from the spread angle in the direction vertical to the junction surface.

Namely, the simple fixation of the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 to the optical base 151 does not allow the center of the beam spot of the laser beam Lb to correspond to the center of the objective lens 122.

Therefore, in many cases, as shown in FIG. 7, the center of the beam spot of the laser beam Lb substantially corresponds to the center of the objective lens 122 by rotating the dichroic prism 128 in the direction of an arrow A or in the direction of an arrow B while the dichroic prism 128 is parallel to a plane including the optical axis between the prism mirror 124 and the dichroic prism 128 and the dichroic prism 128 and a reference axis of the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 when the optical pickup 121 is assembled.

However, as shown in FIG. 7, in the case where the

direction of the main light beam of the laser beam emitted from the second laser element 131 is shifted from the center of the objective lens 122, even if the center of the beam spot of the laser beam Lb corresponds to the center of the objective lens 122, the accuracy of position on the side of the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 or fixing accuracy of the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 to the optical base 151 results in the large change in the intensity of the laser beam, i.e. an energy amount incident to the objective lens 122.

In order to solve the above problem, in the invention, a through hole 153 is provided in the optical base 151 as shown in FIG. 8, and a flat spring 163 presses a boss plate 161 shown in FIG. 9 in which a boss 162 is formed from the outside of the optical base 151 as shown in FIG. 10.

As shown in FIG. 11, the configuration shown in FIGS. 8 to 10 allows the boss (boss plate 161) to move (slide) to an arbitrary amount in the arbitrary direction orthogonal to the axial direction of the through hole 153 within the range of the through hole 153 in the optical base 151. Needless to say, the maximum value (alignment margin) in which the boss 162 in the boss plate 161 can be slid is arbitrarily set by properly setting the difference between diameters of the through hole 153 and the boss 162.

As shown in FIG. 12A, a parting line in die-cast molding exerts little influence on the boss plate 161 and the boss 162 by independently forming the boss plate 161 and the boss 162 from the optical base 151.

5 Accordingly, in the case where the boss plate 161 and the boss 162 are simultaneously formed with the optical base 151 as shown in FIG. 12B, it is not necessary to form a relief portion 152a which must be prepared in consideration of parting (a special shape  
10 of the boss which is not necessary for additional forming for removing a fin generated by metal mold parting).

Namely, the fixing accuracy of the boss plate 161 (boss 162) to the optical base 151 is also improved by  
15 independently preparing the boss 162 (boss plate 161) from the optical base 151 and fixing the boss 162 (boss plate 161) to the optical base 151 in the separated process as shown in FIGS. 8 to 10.

An example of the main process for assembling the  
20 optical pickup by using the boss, the boss plate, and the optical base shown in FIGS. 8 to 10 will be described below.

As shown in FIG. 13, the optical base 151 and the dichroic prism 128 are set to an assembly jig (not  
25 shown) in which a virtual (assembly) light source 301 is provided. The virtual light source 301 can provide a state in which the second laser element 131 is

located at the design position.

By using an autocollimator (not shown), the dichroic prism 128 is located and fixed to the optical base 151 by bonding so that the light beam from the virtual light source 301 emitted from the dichroic prism 128 becomes the predetermined angle.

The boss plate 161, i.e. the boss 162 is set to the through hole 153 for the boss 162 in the optical base 151, and the boss plate 161 is pressed to the optical base 151 by using the flat spring 163.

Then, the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 is fixed to the boss 162 by the positioning hole 134a in the heat sink 134, and the second laser element 131 in the light-emitting/receiving unit 135 is emitted.

At this point, while the laser beam emitted from the dichroic prism 128 is monitored by the autocollimator, the boss plate 161 is moved in the arbitrary direction, an light-emitting point is moved onto the optical axis of the laser beam (axis line through which the laser beam should originally pass), and the boss plate 161 is stopped.

Since the flat spring 163 presses the boss plate 161 to the optical base 151, the position of the boss plate 161 is held even if slight vibration or external force is applied.

Then, as shown in FIG. 14, the boss plate 161 and the optical base 151 are bonded with UV cured adhesive

which is cured by ultraviolet-ray irradiation (the UV  
cured resin is injected into a predetermined space  
between the boss plate 161 and the optical base 151,  
and irradiated with UV light having a predetermined  
5 wavelength).

More specifically, in the method of assembling the  
optical pickup shown in FIG. 13 and FIG. 14, a dual  
wavelength optical pickup device including the  
objective lens 122 which condenses the laser beam onto  
10 the optical disk D or captures the reflected light beam  
from the optical disk D, the prism mirror 124 which  
folds the optical path of the laser beam passing  
through the objective lens 122 at the predetermined  
angle, the first light source 125 which emits the light  
15 beam having the first wavelength, the second light  
source 131 (the light-emitting/receiving unit) which  
outputs the light beam having the second wavelength,  
the collimating lens 129 which collimates the light  
beam from the first light source, the dichroic prism  
20 128 which transmits the light beam having the first  
wavelength collimated with the collimating lens 129  
toward the prism mirror 124 and reflects the light beam  
from the second light source 131 toward the prism  
mirror 124, and the optical base 151 which holds each  
25 of elements, the optical pickup device is assembled by  
the steps of:

fixing the prism mirror 124 at a predetermined



position in the optical base 151 directly or through a holding member;

fixing the collimating lens 129 at the predetermined position in the optical base 151 directly or  
5 through the holding member so that the light beam from the first light source 125 can be incident on the prism mirror 124 under a predetermined condition;

fixing the dichroic prism 128 at the predetermined position in the optical base 151 directly or through  
10 the holding member, while the virtual light source 301 for assembly is used instead of the second light source 131 and the light beam from the virtual light source 301 is monitored as the light beam reflected from the prism mirror 124;

15 positioning the second light source 131, which is fixed to the heat sink 134 on the basis of a monitor signal obtained by the alignment photodetector or a detector of autocollimator (not shown), at the predetermined position in the optical base 151; and

20 bonding a heat sink holding member 161 to the optical base 151, the heat sink holding member 161 holding the heat sink 134 so that a relative position between the heat sink 134 and the optical base 151 can be changed.

25 According to the method of the invention, the center of the laser beam emitted from the light source, i.e. the light-emitting/receiving unit can correspond

to the substantial center of the objective lens,  
namely, the light-emitting point can be aligned on the  
optical axis of the laser beam (the axis line through  
which the laser beam should originally pass), and the  
5 energy of the laser beam condensed on the recording  
surface in the optical disk with the objective lens can  
be prevented from fluctuating undesirably. Further, an  
expensive measuring machine is not required, and  
manufacturing equipment which is currently utilized can  
10 be used as it is, so that the assembly cost is not  
affected.

Although the example of the light-emitting/  
receiving unit for writing the information in the  
DVD standard optical disk in the above-described  
15 embodiments, the invention can be also applied to the  
laser unit including the laser element for reproducing  
the information from the CD standard optical disk.

The invention is not limited to the above-  
described embodiments, and various changes and  
20 modifications can be made without departing from the  
spirit and scope of the invention in achievement of the  
invention. Further, each embodiment can be properly  
combined as much as possible, and an advantage  
generated by the combination can be obtained in that  
25 case.

As described above in detail, according to the  
invention, the center of the light beam from the light

source can be incident on the objective lens, so that optical pickups having little variation can be obtained. Accordingly, the yield of the optical pickups is increased and the manufacturing cost is  
5 decreased.

In the optical disk device in which the optical pickup of the invention is incorporated, the recording state during recording the information in the optical disk is uniformed, so that possible generation of  
10 variation in the optical disk device is decreased.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments  
15 shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.